

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 EB-07 /084 W
-----080956Z 111748 /16

O R 080820Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7768
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 4383

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S POST-ELECTION MEETING WITH
PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL

1. TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 7, I MET ALONE WITH PRIME MINISTER
DEMIREL. WHILE PURPOSE WAS TO SAY GOODBYE, WE ALSO HAD A
CANDID DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ELECTORAL SITUATION AND
US/TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS.

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2. DEMIREL WAS WELL PLEASED WITH THE ELECTION SHOWING
OF HIS PARTY (WHICH HAD DONE BETTER THAN MANY OBSERVERS
HAD PREDICTED) BUT WAS STILL BASICALLY DISCOURAGED WITH
THE OVERALL RESULT. TURKEY IS NOW CONDEMNED TO MORE
"NO GOVERNMENT", HE SAID. IT WAS A FREE AND PEACEFUL
ELECTION, AND THIS WAS GOOD, BUT TURKEY'S PROPORTIONAL
REPRESENTATION SYSTEM, HE WENT ON, IS NOT A GOOD ONE

BECAUSE IT IS TOO DIFFICULT UNDER IT TO PRODUCE A GOVERNMENT WITH SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO GOVERN EFFICIENTLY. AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION THE PRIMIN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT TURKEY SHOULD ADOPT THE FRENCH SYSTEM OF RUN-OFFS. WITH THE KIND OF A RESULT WE NOW HAVE, HE SAID, WE SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAVE ANOTHER ELECTION IN TWO WEEKS. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT IF TURKEY WOULD SWITCH TO A SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT SYSTEM THAT THIS MIGHT CURE ITS PROBLEMS.

3. WHEN I ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT, HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK ECEVIT WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM A COALITION. LATER HE MODIFIED THIS TO SAY THAT HE WAS SURE THAT ECEVIT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT GO INTO A GOVERNMENT WITH TURKES (NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY), BUT PERHAPS HE WOULD WORK OUT A COALITION WITH ERBAKAN (NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY). WHILE THE LATTER WAS POSSIBLE, HE SAID, HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD HAPPEN. AS FOR WHAT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HE SAID THAT PROBABLY TOMORROW (JUNE 8), OR THE DAY AFTER, THE ELECTION COMMISSION WOULD CERTIFY THE OVERALL RESULTS, AND WITHIN FIVE DAYS' TIME - WHICH PROBABLY MEANT ABOUT NEXT MONDAY - THE NEW PARLIAMENT WOULD BE CONVENED. AT THAT POINT ECEVIT WOULD LIKELY BE ASKED BY PRESIDENT KORUTURK TO FORM A GOVERNMENT AND SEEK A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM THE PARLIAMENT. AS SOON AS THE SPECIFIC MAKE-UP OF ECEVIT'S PROPOSED CABINET WAS WORKED OUT AND ACCEPTED BY THE PRESIDENT, THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WOULD RESIGN, AND THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INSTALLED. DEMIREL REPEATED HIS DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT ECEVIT WOULD THEN SUCCEED IN GETTING A VOTE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENCE FOR HIS NEW GOVERNMENT. IF NOT, THEN IT WOULD NEXT BE DEMIREL AND THE JUSTICE PARTY'S TURN. DEMIREL THOUGHT THAT HE MIGHT THEN SUCCEED IN PUTTING TOGETHER A COALITION WHICH COULD RECEIVE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY SUPPORT, BUT HE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE CONTEMPLATING THIS PROJECT WITH ANY NOTABLE CONFIDENCE OR ENTHUSIASM. RATHER HE SEEMED VERY MUCH AWARE THAT WHOEVER FORMED A GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WAS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THE SAME COALITION PROBLEMS THAT HAVE PLAGUED BOTH HIS AND ECEVIT'S LAST GOVERNMENTS.

4. OUR CONVERSATION THEN SHIFTED TO US/TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS. I REFERRED TO FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT AT A FAREWELL LUNCHEON HE HAD GIVEN ME EARLIER IN THE DAY TO THE EFFECT THAT OUR COMMON INTERESTS REMAIN STRONG, AND THIS HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT WE STILL HAD A WORKING RELATIONSHIP, DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES THAT HAD ARISEN BETWEEN US. I SAID I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO TAKE SOME STRONG LEADERSHIP IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO GET OUR RELATIONSHIP BACK ON THE

TRACK AND THAT I FELT HE HAD A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS, REGARDLESS OF HOW THE NEW GOVERNMENTAL PICTURE EVENTUALLY DEVELOPED HERE. AS THE PRIME MINISTER IS A GREAT ADMIRER OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN, I REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT WHEN OUR POST WORLD WAR II RELATIONSHIP WAS FIRST BEING PUT TOGETHER, PRESIDENT TRUMAN TOOK A NUMBER OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL RISKS. IN THE END AMERICANS SAW THE NECESSITY FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE IN THE GREEK-TURKISH AND OTHER SITUATIONS, AND ALTHOUGH HE HAD TO LIVE THROUGH BAD DAYS, TRUMAN'S POSITION AND REPUTATION, AS A RESULT, HAD IN THE END INCREASED IN STRENGTH. I THOUGHT THE SAME KIND OF COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP WAS NEEDED NOW, BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND IN ANKARA. DEMIREL INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BEGIN TO MOVE THE DCA THOUGH THE CONGRESS. I SAID I HOPED THIS WOULD HAPPEN SOON. I ALSO HOPED THAT HE WOULD REMEMBER

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EB-07 /084 W

-----092255Z 008963 /65/16

O R 080820Z JUN 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MRN
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7769
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 4383

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TRUMAN'S EXAMPLE AND COULD FIND A WAY TO HELP THE NEW ADMINISTRATION BY COURAGEOUSLY WORKING FOR MORE FLEXIBLE POSTURE IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION. THIS MIGHT NOT BE IMMEDIATELY WELL RECEIVED IN TURKEY BUT JUST IN TERMS OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION ITSELF, SUCH A MOVE WAS CLEARLY IN TURKEY'S INTEREST, AND IT WOULD HELP ENORMOUSLY THOSE PEOPLE IN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHO WERE TRYING TO GET THE US/TURKISH RELATIONSHIP
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ON THE MEND. I WAS SURE THAT THIS WAS NOT AN EASY THING FOR TURKISH LEADERS, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT WE WERE BACK IN A PERIOD OF POSSIBLE COALITION GOVERNMENT, BUT I HOPED THAT HE WOULD HELP IN THIS EFFORT, AND AGAIN I STRESSED MY CONVICTION THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE GOVERNMENTAL SITUATION, HE WOULD BE A KEY, AND I HOPED TRUMANSEQUE, FIGURE IN SUCH AN EFFORT.

5. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE CLIFFORD EFFORT. I EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE VIEW PUT FORWARD IN SOME TURKISH QUARTERS THAT SECRETARY CLIFFORD WAS BIASED AGAINST THE TURKS. I EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THIS WAS NOT THE GREEK VIEW. I SAID THAT I HAD NOT AGREED WITH ALL OF SECRETARY CLIFFORD'S CONCLUSIONS BUT THAT I KNEW OF HIS STRONG COMMITMENT TO NATO, HIS FULL RECOGNITION OF TURKEY'S IMPORTANCE TO A STRONG NATO AND HIS DETERMINATION TO FIND A WAY TO RESTORE THE US/TURKISH SECURITY PARTNERSHIP. I URGED TURKEY TO COOPERATE WITH MR. CLIFFORD'S CONTINUING EFFORTS FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

6. OUR CONVERSATION THEN ENDED WITH MY SPEAKING OF RON SPIERS OUTSTANDING REPUTATION AND MY GRATIFICATION AT BEING SUCCEEDED BY SUCH AN ABLE AND EFFECTIVE DIPLOMAT.

7. COMMENT: TANNED BY HIS DAYS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, DEMIREL SEEMED FIT BUT TIRED-AND FOR THE PARTICULAR PERIOD I WAS WITH HIM MORE CONTEMPLATIVE AND LESS POSITIVE AND ASSERTIVE THAN IS HIS USUAL STYLE. HE WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE ELECTION SITUATION AND DID NOT REACT WITH HIS USUAL ENERGY AND INTEREST WHEN THE CONVERSATION FOCUSSED ON US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS. MY REPEATED ALLUSIONS TO PRESIDENT TRUMAN WERE CALCULATED, AS DEMIREL LIKES TO VIEW HIMSELF AS TURKEY'S COUNTERPART TO THIS AMERICAN PRESIDENT WHOM HE MOST
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ADMIREES.

8. AS FOR THE POST-ELECTION SITUATION HERE, I MUST STRESS TO ALL INTERESTED ELEMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE ANYONE CAN SAY WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHAT GOVERNMENTAL SITUATION WILL EVENTUALLY EMERGE. AT THE MOMENT NO ONE-MR. DEMIREL, MR. ECEVIT NOR ANYONE ELSE-CAN SEE THIS WITH ANY CERTAINLY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE DURATION OF THIS UNCERTAIN PERIOD WILL BE FOR ONLY A MATTER OF DAYS, BUT IT COULD GO ON FOR MANY WEEKS. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL HEAR MANY RUMORS, AND THESE COULD RUN A WIDE GAMUT. WE MAY HEAR AT ONE MOMENT THAT ECEVIT HAS OBTAINED SUFFICIENT DEFECTIONS FROM THE OTHER PARTYS' PARLIAMENTARIANS TO GET HIS MAJORITY, OR THAT HE HAS MADE A DEAL WITH ERBAKAN'S (NSP) PARTY, OR THAT HE HAS SPLIT THE NSP AND THAT ENOUGH MEMBERS OF THIS PARLIMENTARY GROUP WILL JOIN HIM TO GIVE HIM A MAJORITY, OR THAT ECEVIT IS TO BE PERMITTED BY THE OTHER PAARTIES TO FORM A MINORITY GOVERNMENT (A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE REQUIRES ONLY A MAJORITY OF THOSE VOTING). OR WE MAY HEAR TALK THAT DEMIREL'S CURRENT COALITION WILL HANG TOGETHER.(IT HAS A MAJORITY IN THE NEW PARLIMANET AND CAN NOT ONLY BLICK ECEVIT BUT PERHAPS GET ITSELF TOGETHER AGAIN TO PUT BACK IN OFFICE PRETTY MUCH WHAT WE HAVE NOW.) STILL OTHER RUMORS MAY SUGGEST THAT A "GRAND COALITION" (I.E. A COALITION OF ECEVIT'S AND DEMIREL'S TWO MAJOR PARTYIES) IS ABOUT TO BE FORMED. THIS WOULD BE LEAD BY A "NEUTRAL" PRIMIN AND IS SOMETHING THE POLITICIANS HERE GENERALLY OPPOSE BUT WHICHMANY INFLUENTIAL NON-POLITICANS FAVOR. IF NONE OF THESE RUMORS-OR VARIATIONS ON THEM-BEGIN TO JELL AND PARTICULARLY IF THE CIVIL DISORDER SITUATION BEGINS TO HEAT UP, THEY MAY THEN BE JOINED BY PREDICTIONS OF A MILITARY INTERVENTION. BUT THE BASIC POINT TO BE AGAIN EMPHASIZED IS THAT AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO WAY

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OF KNOWING WITH CONFIDENCE HOW THE CURRENT UNCERTAINTIES WILL BE RESOLVED OR WHETHER THIS WILL BE EFFECTED IN A MATTER OF A FEW DAYS' TIME OR END UP TAKING FAR LONGER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA04383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770205-0206
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770680/aaaacsfc.tel
Line Count: 275
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61153a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2240135
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S POST-ELECTION MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL
TAGS: PINT, TU, US, (DEMIREL, SULEYMAN), (MACOMBER, WILLIAM B JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61153a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009